

Constitution
of
The Evangelical
Lutheran Synod
In The Central States

ADOPTED JUNE 8, 9, 1954

AT

**THE ORGANIZING CONVENTION
ST. MARK'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI**



**Supplement To The Minutes Of The
Organizing Convention**

CONSTITUTION

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IN THE UNITED STATES

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CONSTITUTION

The Evangelical Lutheran Synod In The Central States

ARTICLE ONE

THE SYNOD

Section I. The Name and Territory

The name and title of the church body organized under this constitution shall be The Evangelical Lutheran Synod in the Central States. The territory of this Synod shall be the States of Arkansas, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, and that portion of the State of Missouri which lies west of the ninety-second principal meridian.

Section II—The Doctrinal Basis

1. This Synod receives and holds the canonical Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the inspired Word of God, and as the only infallible rule and standard of faith and practice according to which all doctrines and teachers are to be judged.

2. This Synod accepts the three ecumenical creeds — namely, the Apostles, the Nicene, and the Athanasian — as important testimonies drawn from the Holy Scriptures, and rejects all errors which they condemn.

3. This Synod receives and holds the Unaltered Augsburg Confession as a correct exhibition of the faith and doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, founded upon the word of God; and acknowledges all churches that sincerely hold and faithfully confess the doctrines of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession to be entitled to the name of Evangelical Lutheran.

4. This Synod recognizes the Analogy of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalkald Articles, the Large and Small Catechisms of Luther, and the Formula of Concord, as in the harmony of one and the same pure scriptural faith.

Section III—The Membership

1. The original membership of this Synod shall consist of the

ordained ministers and congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Kansas and Adjacent States, The Evangelical Lutheran Synod in the Midwest of the United Lutheran Church in America, and The Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Nebraska of the United Lutheran Church in America which have merged into the Evangelical Lutheran Synod in the Central States.

2. Additional ordained ministers and congregations in unity with the doctrinal basis set forth in Section II, received into membership as hereinafter provided.

3. Any Evangelical Lutheran minister who has applied for admission and has accepted this constitution with its doctrinal basis, and whose application has the approval of the examining committee, may be received into membership in the manner hereinafter provided.

4. Other ministerial members may be received by ordination, transfer, or as hereinafter provided.

5. Any congregation located within the limits of the territory of this Synod as defined in this constitution may, upon approval of the executive committee, be received into membership by a majority vote at any regular convention.

Section IV—Object, Duties, and Powers

In accordance with the doctrinal basis set forth in Section II of this article, and in full accord with the Constitution of The United Lutheran Church in America, this body recognizes that all power in the Church belongs to our Lord, Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church; and all just duties and powers exercised by the Church are committed to her for the furtherance of the Gospel through the Word and the Sacraments. Therefore this body is organized:

1. To preserve and extend the pure teaching of the Gospel and the right administration of the Sacraments (Eph. 5:5), (Augsburg Confession Article VII);

2. To conserve the unity of the true faith (Eph. 4:2-16; I Cor. 1:10); to guard against any departure therefrom (Rom. 16-17); and to strengthen the congregations in faith, confession, and witness to the Kingdom of God;

3. To give outward expression of the spiritual unity of Evangelical Lutheran congregations, to cultivate co-operation in pro-

moting the general interests of the Church, and to develop and unfold the specific Lutheran principles and practices and make their strength effective;

4. To establish new congregations;

5. To awaken, co-ordinate, and direct and supervise effectively the united energies of the congregations in such operations as the following:

(a) The training of ministers and teachers to be witnesses of the Word; and the upbuilding, maintenance, and strengthening of institutions for such training;

(b) The extension of the Kingdom of God by the support of home, foreign, and social missions, under the administration and functions of The United Lutheran Church in America;

(c) The cultivation of worship in the congregation and family in keeping with the practice of The United Lutheran Church in America, unto the edification of the Body of Christ;

(d) The creation and development of agencies to carry on all departments of work in co-operation with the boards, committees, and agencies of The United Lutheran Church in America;

(e) The establishment and maintenance of Christian colleges and a ministry to students in other institutions of higher education.

6. To encourage the attainment of higher levels of Christian giving and to solicit and disburse funds for the purposes of the work defined in this constitution;

7. To ordain qualified men to the holy office of the ministry of the Gospel; and to suspend and depose those who dishonor it by false teaching, by insubordination, or by an unworthy or wicked life;

8. To shepherd the congregations and pastors by helping in time of difficulty, trouble, and strife, and by general assistance;

9. To maintain discipline and to foster holiness and fidelity in ministers and congregations;

10. To maintain a loyal connection and relation with The United Lutheran Church in America and all its interests and obligations.

ARTICLE TWO

CONVENTIONS

1. A regular convention of the Synod shall be held annually at the time specified in the by-laws.
2. Special conventions shall be called by the president upon the request of the executive committee or the written request of one-fifth of the ministers; but no business shall be transacted at a special convention except that specified in the call.
3. One-third of the ministers belonging to this Synod, with the lay delegates present, shall constitute a quorum.
4. Notice of the time and place of all conventions shall be given by the secretary.

ARTICLE THREE

OFFICERS

Section I—The Officers

1. The officers of the Synod shall be a president, a secretary, and a treasurer. They shall be elected at regular conventions of the Synod. The president and secretary shall be ministers.
2. The term of office of the president and other full time officers shall be five years; that of other officers, one year. All shall serve until their successors assume office. All officers shall be eligible for re-election.
3. Should a vacancy occur in any of these offices, the executive committee is empowered to fill the same until the next regular convention of the Synod, or, at its discretion, it may call a special convention of Synod to fill the vacancy.
4. No one shall be eligible for election as an officer of the Synod, or for any other full-time service of the Synod, after he has reached the age of sixty-eight.
5. The officers shall be entitled to receive the necessary expenses incident to the duties imposed by their office, and such remuneration as the Synod may determine.

6. The proper officers of Synod are duly empowered and authorized, in the name of the Synod, to satisfy of record any mortgages, judgments, notes, or other recorded evidences of indebtedness, in such manner as may be provided by law. In conjunction therewith the treasurer shall be empowered and authorized, in the name of the Synod, to assign and transfer any policies of insurance or other securities that may be held as collateral to such mortgages, judgments, notes, or other recorded evidences of indebtedness.

Section II—The President

1. The term of office of the president shall begin on the first day of the third month succeeding the month of his election.

2. He shall exercise supervision over all ministers and congregations of the Synod, and over all agencies created by the Synod for the prosecution of the general work of the church.

3. He shall preside at all conventions of the Synod and at all meetings of the ministerial session and of the executive committee; and it shall be his duty to see that the constitution, by-laws, and decisions of the Synod are duly observed and its resolutions carried into effect. He shall appoint all committees unless otherwise provided for.

4. He shall visit the congregations belonging to the Synod, and confer and advise with the people concerning their spiritual and temporal welfare; and he shall counsel with the ministers as their pastor.

5. He shall ordain all accepted candidates for the ministerial office, and install the pastors of all congregations belonging to the Synod, or provide for and authorize their ordination and installation as the Synod may prescribe in its by-laws.

6. When the execution of deeds or other instruments of writing is ordered by the Synod, or required by this constitution, or becomes proper and necessary in carrying on the business of the corporation, the president is authorized and empowered, in the name of the Synod, to sign the same and to affix the seal of the Synod.

7. He shall preserve in the offices of the Synod, or deliver to the archivist, all important documents left in his hands as president, together with copies of all officials papers or documents issued and published by him, by the officers of the Synod, or by the executive committee.

8. He shall submit annually to the Synod a report of all his official acts, except matters of a private character, together with such other information and recommendations as he may deem of importance.

Section III—The Secretary

1. There shall be a secretary of the Synod as a corporation. He shall enter upon his duties on the first day of the third month succeeding the month of his election.

2. The secretary shall keep all official minutes of the Synod and also the minutes of the executive committee. He shall be responsible for the printing and distribution of the minutes of the Synod, and shall perform other duties which the Synod may from time to time lay upon him.

3. The secretary shall prepare and keep a correct register of the ministers belonging to the Synod, with the dates of their entrance into the ministry and places of residence; also a similar register of the congregations and parishes connected with the Synod, with the names of the pastors serving them and of the lay delegates appointed to represent them.

4. The secretary is authorized and empowered, in the name of the Synod, to attest all instruments of writing ordered by the Synod or required by the constitution or necessary in carrying on the business of the corporation, and signed and sealed by the president.

Section IV—The Treasurer

1. The term of office of the treasurer shall begin on the first day of the third month succeeding the month of his election.

2. The treasurer shall have charge of all monies and accounts of the Synod, its deeds, mortgages, contracts, and evidences of claims and revenues. He shall also have charge of its trust funds, holding the same at all times subject to the order of the Synod, except such trust funds as the Synod may specifically commit to other agents.

3. The treasurer shall receive and acknowledge all offerings, contributions, and legacies made to the Synod, collect all interest and income from invested funds in his charge, and pay all appropriations and orders of the Synod from the several accounts as approved and directed by the executive committee.

4. The treasurer shall keep a regular account with each congregation of Synod. At least quarterly during the synodical year he shall inform the council and the pastor of each congregation of the state of this account, and prepare and submit at each regular convention of Synod a tabular statement of such accounts for record and publication.

5. Upon action by the executive committee, the treasurer shall make, change, or renew investments of funds owned or held in trust by the Synod; and he is duly empowered, constituted, and authorized as the attorney in fact for the Synod to satisfy of record any mortgages, judgments, notes, or recorded evidences of indebtedness and to assign and transfer any policies of insurance or other securities that may be held as collateral to such mortgages, loans, or judgments.

6. He shall deposit promptly all monies received for any account of the Synod in such bank or banks as may be designated by the executive committee.

7. On entering upon his office, he shall give satisfactory bond to the Synod for the faithful performance of his duties, in such amount as the executive committee shall determine, which bond shall be in the custody of the president.

8. At each regular convention he shall render a full, detailed, and accurate report to the Synod of all receipts and disbursements in his several accounts, with a statement of the financial condition of the Synod and its apportioned obligation to The United Lutheran Church in America, which report shall be regularly audited and certified.

ARTICLE FOUR

THE MINISTERIAL SESSION

1. The ordained members of the Synod shall constitute the ministerial session.

2. To the ministerial session shall belong the duty of passing upon and reporting to the Synod all applications for ordination or reception of ministers recommended by the examining committee; of examining and trying cases of heresy in doctrine, or of teaching and preaching in conflict with the doctrinal basis set forth in Article One, Section II; of hearing and trying cases in which appeal is granted by the Synod from the findings of a committee on dis-

cipline; and of transacting such other business as the Synod may refer to it.

3. A regular meeting of the ministerial session shall be held in connection with the regular convention of the Synod, when the examining committee is prepared to report its recommendations in the matter of applicants for ordination or membership. Other meetings may be called by the president.

4. The ministerial session shall be subject to the rules of order governing a regular synodical convention. One-third of the ministers belonging to the Synod shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE FIVE

THE CONFERENCES

1. District conferences shall be constituted of ministers and congregations of the Synod located within a given territory, as determined from time to time by the Synod.

2. It shall be the duty of each conference to promote the interests and development of the Church upon its territory; to assist in carrying out the regulations and resolutions of the Synod; to attend to such other duties within its territory as may be assigned to it by the Synod.

3. Each conference shall appoint a stewardship committee to co-operate with the stewardship committee or stewardship secretary of the Synod.

4. Every pastor and congregation belonging to the Synod and residing or being located within the bounds of a conference shall by that fact belong to the conference. Ordained ministers of the Synod, not actively serving pastorates shall be assigned conference connections by the president of the Synod. If a pastoral charge does not lie wholly within the boundary lines of a single conference, the place where the pastor resides shall determine his own conference connection and the conference connection of his pastoral charge.

5. Each conference shall meet at least twice each year and as many more times as circumstances may require. Special meetings may be called by the president of the conference, or as may be otherwise determined by the conference itself. One-third of the

ministers belonging to the conference, with the lay delegates present, shall constitute a quorum.

6. Each conference shall meet at the time of the regular convention of Synod to elect a minister to be president, a minister to be secretary, and such other officers as it may deem necessary. These officers shall take office the first day of the third month following their election.

7. The conference may adopt for itself any rules and regulations not in conflict with the constitution and by-laws, regulations, or resolutions of the Synod or of The United Lutheran Church in America.

8. The president of the Synod shall have a voice and vote in meetings of each conference.

9. The actions of a conference shall at all times be subject to review by the Synod.

10. The president of each conference shall make a written report, including an abstract of the proceedings of the conference, stating also the condition and needs of the church within its bounds, and shall transmit the same to the president of the Synod as provided in the by-laws.

ARTICLE SIX

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. There shall be an executive committee of the Synod consisting of the president, the secretary, and the treasurer, together with one minister and one layman from each conference to be elected by the Synod for terms to be fixed in the by-laws.

2. It shall be the duty of the executive committee:

- a. To represent the Synod and carry out its resolutions;
- b. To attend to the business of the Synod ad interim;
- c. To promote the interests of The United Lutheran Church in America and this body's relation thereto;
- d. To co-ordinate the work of the several agencies of the Synod;
- e. To present a budget with apportionments to the annual convention of the Synod;

- f. To fill vacancies not otherwise provided for;
 - g. And to perform such other work as may be designated to it by the Synod, to which it shall make full report of all its acts.
3. It shall be entrusted with all matters pertaining to legacies and trust funds in the possession of, or coming into the possession of the Synod; it shall direct the investment of such funds in the manner it thinks best for the safety of the said funds and the best interests of the beneficiaries of these funds.
4. It shall cause an annual examination to be made of all investments and securities held by the Synod and report thereon.
5. It shall hold regular meetings ad interim as Synod may determine. Special meetings may be called by the president of the Synod, or, in case of his death or removal, by the secretary. A majority of members shall constitute a quorum.
6. It shall have the power to appoint all necessary sub-committees from among its members. It shall determine the amount of salary to be paid to any officer or official of the Synod entitled thereto, when not otherwise determined, and shall make budgetary provisions to meet its necessary expenses.

ARTICLE SEVEN

ELECTIVE COMMITTEES

Section I—The Examining Committee

1. This committee shall consist of seven ordained ministers of the Synod, who shall be elected by the Synod in such manner that the terms of at least two members shall expire each year. No member shall be re-elected until a year shall have expired after the completion of his term of office.
2. It shall be the duty of this committee to examine into the qualifications of all applicants for ordination and admission into the Synod, as provided in ARTICLE NINE, Section I, of this constitution.
3. This committee shall report to the ministerial session and shall recommend such applicants as shall satisfy the provisions of ARTICLE NINE, Section 1. A two-thirds vote of the members of the committee shall be necessary for all recommendations.

Section II—Committee on Home Missions

1. There shall be a committee on home missions consisting of the president of Synod, together with one minister and one layman from each conference elected by the Synod for a term of three years in such manner that the terms of approximately one-third of the total number shall expire each year. No elected member shall be elected for more than two consecutive full terms.

2. No home missionary and no layman from a congregation receiving salary aid shall be eligible to membership on this committee.

3. The committee shall supervise, promote and control all the home mission work of the Synod. It shall be charged specifically with the duty of making an annual survey of the home mission field of the Synod, organizing new missions, preparing and submitting the annual home missions budget to the executive committee, and making a detailed annual report to the Synod.

4. The committee shall elect a chairman and a secretary. The treasurer of Synod shall serve as treasurer of this committee. It shall hold regular meetings as often as necessary for the performance of its duties.

5. The committee shall endeavor to stimulate and energize the home missions spirit in the parishes of the Synod.

Section III—Committee on Social Missions

1. There shall be a committee on social missions consisting of the president of Synod together with one minister and one layman from each conference elected by the Synod for a term of three years, in such manner that the terms of approximately one-third of the total number shall expire each year. No elected member shall be elected for more than two consecutive full terms.

2. The committee shall co-operate with The Board of Social Missions of The United Lutheran Church in America and advise with and assist pastors and congregations of the Synod in the development of programs and projects in the fields of inner missions, evangelism, and social action within the bounds of Synod. It shall make an annual survey of all social missions interests and needs on the territory of Synod and keep the Synod fully informed of the progress of the cause through regular annual reports.

3. The committee may delegate to the conference social missions

committees such duties as may be necessary to vitalize all social missions work on the territory of every conference of the Synod and to stimulate and energize the social missions spirit in every parish of the Synod.

4. The committee shall elect its necessary officers at the first regular meeting following each annual convention of Synod; and shall hold regular meetings as often as necessary for the performance of its duties.

ARTICLE EIGHT

OTHER COMMITTEES

Section I—Committee of Presidents

1. This committee shall consist of the president of the Synod, who shall be its chairman, and the presidents of the conferences.)

2. The duty of this committee will be to advise with and assist the president of Synod in the discharge of the duties of his office; to confer with him concerning the needs of the church on the territory of the respective conferences; to consider and advise with him concerning enactments of The United Lutheran Church in America in order to make the same effective in the congregations of the Synod; and to act upon such other matters as may be referred to it from time to time by the Synod.

3. It shall be the duty of this committee to make an annual review of the roll of the ministers of the Synod and to offer such recommendations to the ministerial session as will be appropriate under ARTICLE TEN, Paragraph 9, of this constitution.

4. This committee shall make a record of all pastoral installations, corner stone layings, dedications of churches, etc., together with proper memoirs of ministers of the Synod deceased during the year, and report the same through the president of the Synod to the conventions of the Synod.

Section II—Committee on Church Vocations

1. This committee shall consist of the president of the Synod and three ministers and three laymen to be appointed by the president of Synod with the approval of the executive committee to serve for terms of three years in such manner that the terms of two members expire each year. No member shall be reappointed to the

committee until a year shall have elapsed since the expiration of his term.

2. The duties of the committee shall be to seek out and encourage young men and women to give themselves to full-time church vocations.

A. MEN FOR THE MINISTRY

The committee shall:

- (1) Compile a list of the Synod's ministerial candidates in college and seminary.
- (2) Encourage, counsel, and direct all ministerial candidates through interviews and reports.
- (3) Distribute available literature and prepare additional material on the call to the Christian ministry as occasion may demand.
- (4) Certify to the Synod such students as it approves.
- (5) Disburse such funds as the Synod shall appropriate or as may be granted to the Synod by The Board of Education of The United Lutheran Church in America for assistance of students for the ministry.
- (6) Adopt rules and regulations subject to approval by the Synod.
- (7) Perform any other duties in the field of ministerial education which the Synod may assign to it.

B. WOMEN IN FULL-TIME SERVICE

The committee shall in similar manner seek out, list, direct and aid young women for the diaconate or other full-time Christian service at home and abroad.

3. This committee shall make available to the examining committee all its records and findings relating to candidates for ordination.

4. The committee shall submit a full report annually to the Synod.

Section III—Committee on Stewardship

1. There shall be a committee on stewardship consisting of three ministers, and three laymen appointed annually by the president of the Synod with the approval of the executive committee.

2. It shall be the duty of this committee to stress Christian stewardship as the practice of the Christian faith. It shall co-operate with the Stewardship Office of The United Lutheran Church in America in the creation and development of a stewardship consciousness and spirit within every congregation of the Synod.

3. It shall discourage unscriptural methods of money raising and shall lead the congregation to higher levels of giving with the Christian tithe as a reasonable first step.

Section IV—Committee on Foreign Missions

1. There shall be a committee on foreign missions consisting of three ministers and three laymen appointed annually by the president with the approval of the executive committee.

2. The chief function of this committee shall be to encourage in every parish of the Synod the desire to share in the evangelizing of the world. To this end it shall co-operate with The Board of Foreign Missions of The United Lutheran Church in America in seeking out young men and women for missionary service, in arranging itineraries for missionaries, in furthering the Board's special objectives, and in acquainting parishes with the aids which the Board makes available.

3. The committee shall submit an annual report to the Synod.

Section V—Committee on Christian Education

1. There shall be a committee on Christian Education consisting of the president of the Synod together with three ministers and three laymen appointed by the president with the approval of the executive committee for a term of three years in such manner that the terms of one minister and one layman shall expire each year.

2. It shall be the duty of this committee:

- a. To be a two-way channel of communication between the Synod and The Board of Parish Education of The United Lutheran Church in America.

- b. To encourage and promote the full development of programs of Christian education in congregations within the Synod, and to assist congregations to carry on a program of thorough catechetical instruction.
 - c. To give guidance to Lutheran church school associations within the bounds of the Synod.
3. The committee shall submit an annual report to the Synod.

ARTICLE NINE

THE RECEPTION OF MEMBERS

Section I—Ministers

1. All applications for ordination or for reception into the Synod shall be made to the president and referred by him to the examining committee which shall report on the same to the ministerial session (except as provided in B. 2., below); and upon the recommendation of the ministerial session by a two-thirds vote, the Synod shall take final action on each application.

2. No applicant shall be received into this Synod whose field of labor is exclusively or chiefly within the territory or under the supervision of another Synod.

3. Every minister received into the Synod and every candidate who is ordained shall sign this constitution prior to admission into membership. By such signature the signer also obligates himself to relinquish his ordination certificate if requested to do so by formal action of the Synod.

A. Applicants for Ordination

1. The examination of candidates for ordination shall be open to all members of the Synod. It shall test the general fitness of each applicant for the office of the ministry, his reasons for seeking the office, his theological attainments, his acceptance of the standards prescribed in ARTICLE ONE, Section II, and his willingness to give loyal support to the organization and work of the Synod and of The United Lutheran Church in America.

2. Applicants for ordination shall present to the examining committee a satisfactory written testimonial of Christian life and char-

acter and also a transcript of their academic record in the theological seminary.

3. Every candidate to be ordained by the Synod shall be at least twenty-one years of age and shall exhibit satisfactory evidence to the examining committee that he has received a regular call to preach the Word and administer the Sacraments and that he has accepted the call upon the condition of his ordination by the Synod. Every candidate shall be a graduate of an approved seminary and shall have completed at least one year in a Lutheran theological seminary. This rule shall not apply in the cases of ordained men coming from ecclesiastical bodies other than Lutheran. This call, carrying no limitation of time, must come from a congregation, a synod, or a church board to a special field of ministerial labor.

4. A candidate who has not received and accepted a call shall likewise present himself for examination. Upon approval by the examining committee he may be recommended to the ministerial session for ordination. Such ordination shall take place when he shall have submitted satisfactory evidence to the president that he has received and accepted a regular call, and shall have given assurance of his acceptance of this constitution, especially ARTICLE ONE, Section II.

5. In exceptional cases the president may receive into the Synod by ordination an applicant who fulfills all the necessary requirements, providing he is approved by unanimous vote of the examining committee and the executive committee.

B. Ordained Ministers

1. Any ordained minister of a constituent synod of The United Lutheran Church in America, applying for admission into this Synod, shall present a letter of dismissal of the synod from which he comes. He shall appear for conference with the examining committee. If on favorable report of the examining committee to the ministerial session, two-thirds of the ministers present approve, he shall be recommended to the Synod for reception.

2. Any ordained minister of a constituent synod of The United Lutheran Church in America, after being called as a pastor of a congregation belonging to this Synod, may, in the interim between conventions of the Synod, be received into the Synod by the president upon unanimous recommendation of the examining committee and of the executive committee.

3. Any ordained minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church belonging to a Synod not a constituent of The United Lutheran Church in America, who applies for membership in this Synod, having received a regular call to a specific field of ministerial labor and having accepted such call subject to his reception into this Synod, shall furnish satisfactory evidence of his ordination and of his Christian character together with a letter of dismissal or testimonial of good standing issued by the body from which he comes. He shall appear before the examining committee for conference as to his acceptance of the standards prescribed in ARTICLE ONE, Section II, and as to his willingness to give loyal support to the organization and work of this Synod and of The United Lutheran Church in America. If, on favorable report from the examining committee to the ministerial session, two-thirds of the ministers present approve, he shall be recommended to the Synod for reception.

4. A minister coming from an ecclesiastical body other than Lutheran who desires to be received as a minister of this Synod, shall present himself to the examining committee. He shall submit documents witnessing to his past service in the Christian ministry together with evidence of his good standing in the ecclesiastical body from which he has severed his connection; he shall testify to his acceptance of the faith of the Lutheran Church as stated in ARTICLE ONE, Section II, of this constitution, and to his willingness to give loyal support to the organization and work of this Synod and of The United Lutheran Church in America.

Upon approval by the examining committee, and upon a recommendation of the ministerial session adopted by a two-thirds vote, the applicant may be certified by action of this Synod as eligible to receive a regular call to a field of ministerial labor within this Synod. When the candidate has received a regular call, he shall submit evidence of the same to the president of Synod who shall transmit it to the ministerial session. Upon recommendation of the ministerial session, adopted by a two-thirds vote, and favorable action of the Synod, the candidate shall be received into the Synod by ordination.

Section II—Reception of Congregations

A congregation desiring admission to this Synod shall place in the hands of the president a formal application, signed by the secretary of the council, and shall send a representative to the convention of the Synod; it shall submit a copy of its constitution and of its charter, if incorporated. If these are in accord with the con-

stitution of this Synod, the congregation may be received into membership by a majority vote of this Synod at any convention.

ARTICLE TEN

MINISTERS

1. Ministerial members of the Synod are those who have been received in accordance with this constitution. Their membership shall be terminated by death; by regular transfer and acceptance into another Lutheran synod; by certification to another evangelical church body; by process under ARTICLE TWELVE; in the manner stated in paragraph 9 of this Article; or by demitting the ministry.

2. In addition to pastors of congregations, the Synod may include and continue upon its roll such ministers as hold executive, educational, missionary, or editorial offices to which they have been appointed by the Synod or by The United Lutheran Church in America or any regularly constituted boards of the church which are recognized as having authority to make such appointments, and other ordained Lutheran ministers engaged in extra-parochial work of the church, which has been approved by the Synod or its executive committee as entitling a minister to continue membership in the Synod.

3. Every minister shall conform his preaching and teaching to the doctrinal basis set forth in ARTICLE ONE, Section II of this constitution.

4. Every pastor shall preach the Word and administer the Sacraments, and should conform the manner of conducting public worship to the accepted practice of The United Lutheran Church in America, using such books of worship and instruction as have been accepted and approved by The United Lutheran Church in America. He shall care for the people of his pastorate as individuals in congregations having common faith and harmonious interest with all other members and congregations of The United Lutheran Church in America. He shall give catechetical instruction regularly, and administer the rite of confirmation. He shall solemnize marriage in accordance with the laws of God and of the state. As a shepherd he shall visit and minister to the members of his parish, particularly the sick and infirm. He shall bury the dead. He shall install regularly elected members of the council, and, with the council, administer discipline. He shall supervise all schools and auxiliary organizations of the congregation, together with its work of Evangel-

ism in the community, in the homeland, and abroad. He shall seek out and encourage young men having proper qualifications to prepare for ordination to the Gospel ministry. He shall co-operate with the agencies and officers of the Synod and of the conference in every way, especially in the education of the membership to increase their liberality for the causes recommended by the Synod. He shall endeavor to stimulate piety and the sense of stewardship in the individual and family life of the people, as well as knowledge of the Church and her work by the circulation of her promotional materials.

5. Every pastor shall keep accurate parochial records of baptisms, confirmations, members received by transfer or profession of faith, members transferred or deceased, together with a roster of all members of his charge eligible to commune and communing. He shall keep the record of each congregation of a pastoral charge in a separate book, which shall be the property of the congregation. He shall report annually an accurate statistical summary of these records to the proper official of the Synod.

6. No minister shall preach or perform any ministerial act within the pastoral charge of a brother minister, except upon his request or with his consent; nor shall he make pastoral visits or preach or perform ministerial acts in a vacant charge or congregation except upon formal invitation of the council, or the consent or appointment of the president of the Synod; nor shall he accept a call to a pastoral charge within this Synod without first conferring with the president of the Synod.

7. Should a pastor deem it his duty to resign his charge, he shall confer with the president of Synod before doing so, and when his final decision is made, he shall at once inform the president of the Synod of his decision.

8. Any minister who leaves the specific work of the ministry, without the consent of the president of the Synod, to engage in secular pursuit shall deposit his ordination certificate with the president of Synod, the certificate to be returned to him if and when he resumes the active work of the Lutheran ministry, with the consent of the president of Synod. The synodical secretary shall notify the proper civil authorities regarding the status of ministers newly enrolled in this Synod and of ministers of this Synod who have demitted or who have been deposed from the ministry of the Lutheran church, or who have been officially dropped from the roll in accordance with the next following paragraph.

9. Should a minister belonging to this Synod find himself con-

strained to leave the specific work of the ministry with the consent of the president of the Synod, his name may be continued upon the roll as a member. In this connection the committee of presidents is to report annually to the ministerial session for consideration and reference a full list of all others than superannuated or physically incapacitated ministers on the roll who for a period of two or more years have not engaged in regular ministerial work as defined in paragraph 2 of this article, and the ministerial session shall decide when it shall recommend to the Synod that the name of a minister whose status is in question should be dropped from the roll of members.

10. If any minister in good and regular standing in the Synod enters a field of labor within another Evangelical Lutheran Synod, he shall upon application to the president, be entitled to, and the president shall furnish him with, a certificate of transfer, but until he is formally received into the membership of the synod to which he is being transferred he shall be fully amenable to this Synod.

11. Every minister in good and regular standing in the Synod shall be entitled, upon request, to a certificate of his standing.

12. It shall be the duty of every pastor, when members of his pastoral charge move out of its bounds:

- (1) To urge such members to unite with the congregation into whose territory they have moved;
- (2) To notify immediately the pastor of said congregation of such removal; and
- (3) Upon application, to furnish certificates of transfer of membership to such as are entitled to the same.

13. The Synod shall have the right to advise and admonish concerning association and affiliation of its ministers with non-ecclesiastical and other organizations whose principles or practices appear to be inconsistent with full loyalty to the Christian Church.

14. All ministers of the Synod shall attend all meetings of the Synod, the ministerial session, and the conference to which they belong. In case of unavoidable absence, the absentee shall send to the secretary an excuse for his absence; and nothing shall be regarded as a valid excuse except urgent necessity and positive inability to attend. Repeated absence without valid excuse shall subject the absentee to discipline.

ARTICLE ELEVEN

THE CONGREGATIONS

1. It shall be the duty of each congregation belonging to Synod to select annually from its communing membership in good standing a lay delegate who shall represent it in the convention of the Synod and also one who shall represent it in the convention of the conference, and submit a report to the congregation. The congregation shall arrange to pay their and the pastor's regular expenses, other than travel, to be in full attendance upon such meetings. It may also appoint an alternate to take the place of the regular delegate in his absence.

2. Every congregation belonging to the Synod shall comply with the constitution, by-laws, decisions, and recommendations of the Synod and conference, and should conform its public worship and ministrations to the order approved by The United Lutheran Church in America. It shall make systematic effort to meet at least the amounts apportioned for synodical causes and for The United Lutheran Church in America as indicated in a budget of apportionments by the Synod to the congregation. It shall make earnest effort to pay such amounts into the synodical treasury in monthly installments. It shall make due provision for the ministration of the Word and Sacraments and see that the pastor is properly supported. It shall endeavor to hold at least one service every Lord's day. It shall make all necessary provision for the promotion of piety in its families, for the Christian training of the young, and for the encouragement of the members in the work of evangelism and the practice of Christian stewardship.

3. In cases of pastoral vacancy or of difficulty and strife in the congregation, the council shall seek the advice and instruction of the president of the Synod.

4. In cases of strife and division, should any part of a congregation belonging to the Synod reject the faith set forth in ARTICLE ONE, Section II, or revolt against constitutional provisions or its obligations as a member of this Synod, that part of the congregation, whether majority or minority of its membership, which continues in unity with Synod and its faith shall be recognized as the lawful congregation and shall continue in possession of all property of the congregation.

5. Should a member congregation disband or cease to function for a period of two years, all its property, real, personal and mixed,

shall vest in this Synod, its successors or assigns, providing that no other right, title, or interest had been reserved in the property prior to membership in this Synod.

6. No congregation shall make any enactments in conflict with this constitution or with the regulations of The United Lutheran Church in America.

7. Should a pastor resign, the council shall receive the letter of resignation and present the same to the congregation; and at once report the resignation to the president of the Synod.

8. Any congregation which desires to sever its relations with this Synod in order to unite with some other Evangelical Lutheran Synod shall make written application to the president of this Synod for a proper transfer, stating the reasons for a change in synodical relations and designating the synod to which it desires to be transferred. Thereupon, the Synod may, by proper resolution, transfer the applying congregation to the designated synod. Such transfer shall be certified by the president and secretary of this Synod.

9. Contemplated changes in its constitution affecting its articles concerning faith, adherence to this Synod and The United Lutheran Church in America, or disposition of its property shall be reported to the president of the Synod for action by the Synod.

10. Should a congregation deem it conducive to the best interest of the Church to relocate or to dissolve its organization and relinquish its charter, the church council shall confer with the executive committee and the committee on home missions of the Synod before any steps are taken or any commitments made.

11. Any vacant congregation or pastoral charge in arrears to a former pastor shall be required to make satisfactory adjustment thereof before calling a successor.

ARTICLE TWELVE

DISCIPLINE

Section I—Offenses

The offenses for which ministerial members of the Synod shall be subject to discipline are:

1. Preaching or teaching doctrine in conflict with the faith set forth in ARTICLE ONE, Section II;

2. Conduct incompatible with moral purity or with the character of the ministerial office;

3. Willful disregard or violation of the constitution, authority, and resolutions of the Synod.

Section II—Penalties

1. The penalties which may be imposed upon ministers are:

(a) Private censure and admonition by the president;

(b) Public censure and admonition by the ministerial session of the Synod.

(c) Suspension from the office and functions of the ministry for a designated period or until there is satisfactory evidence of repentance and amendment.

(d) Deposition from the ministerial office.

2. The sentence of suspension or of deposition under the preceding paragraph shall automatically terminate the pastorate of the minister.

3. Should any congregation belonging to the Synod turn away from the faith set forth in ARTICLE ONE, Section II; neglect or refuse to exercise proper discipline over its members after due admonition by the president of the Synod; disparage the cause of the Christian Church or hinder the upbuilding of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ by refusing to support the benevolent work of the Church; or wilfully disregard and violate the constitution or resolutions of the Synod and persist in such disregard and violation, it may be suspended or excluded from membership in this Synod. A two-thirds majority vote shall be required for such exclusion.

4. No minister under sentence of suspension or layman under discipline by his own congregation shall hold any office in the Synod, or serve as a delegate, director, or trustee under its appointment; and every committee, board, delegation, or body of appointees constituted by the Synod shall see to the enforcement of this rule.

5. It shall also be the duty of all ministers and congregations belonging to the Synod to respect the disciplinary action of the

Synod. Disregard of any such disciplinary action by a minister or congregation shall in itself be deemed a violation of order which shall subject the offender to further discipline.

Section III—Processes Against a Minister

A. THE BRINGING OF CHARGES

1. By a Congregation

If serious accusation be lodged against a minister before his church council by six members in good standing in the congregation, unless otherwise provided for by the constitution of the congregation, the council shall confer with him about the same and shall endeavor to remove all just cause of complaint and to reconcile all parties; nor shall any further steps be taken until all proper efforts to this end on the part of the council have been exhausted.

If the efforts to achieve reconciliation fail and in the judgment of the council a *prima facie* case has been made out against the minister, it shall report its finding in writing to the president of the Synod, specifying the charges, which must, however, be founded on the subscribed testimony of at least two credible witnesses. If the council shall ignore the accusation the members of the congregation who have brought the charges may in like manner lay them before the president of the Synod.

If a minister be charged with some specific sin not in the manner aforesaid, but by widespread rumor which is not transient, but which continues and strengthens, the council shall endeavor to remove the scandal. If it fails, or finds evidence of guilt, it shall at once report the case to the president of the Synod.

2. By Ministerial Members of the Synod

Five ministers of the Synod may prefer charges against a minister. Such charges must be specific, in writing, and signed by them.

3. By the President of the Synod

Should the attention of the president of the Synod be directed by rumor or complaint to alleged offenses on the part of any of its ministerial members, he shall immediately investigate the matter and endeavor to remove any cause for complaint or scandal. Should he fail in his efforts, or should he find reason for further investigation, he shall appoint a committee of inquiry.

B THE PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION

If any accusation against a minister of the Synod be lodged with the president by the congregation of which the accused is pastor, or by five ministers of the Synod, or by a committee of inquiry appointed by the president in accordance with Paragraph A, 3 of this section, he shall at once communicate with the accused respecting the matter. If the accused should desire an investigation, or the nature of the accusation be such as to call for it, the president shall appoint a committee for that purpose, and cite the accused to appear before the committee.

When such investigation is instituted, a copy of the complaint against the accused shall be furnished him by the president, allowing him not less than ten days between the time of his citation and the time appointed for the hearing. In the interim the accused shall file with the committee of investigation an answer setting forth his defense. If the accused should refuse, or fail to appear without presenting adequate reasons why the investigation should be deferred to another time, it shall proceed in the same manner as if he were present.

If the findings in such an investigation indicate gross immorality, or flagrant transgression, or if the accused minister shall have absconded, or if the circumstances are such that, in the judgment of the president of the Synod, the Church would suffer irreparable harm if the accused minister would continue to exercise the office of the ministry while under investigation, the president of the Synod shall immediately suspend the accused from the office and functions of the ministry until his case has been finally decided by the Synod.

If the findings of the investigation show sufficient evidence of guilt besides reporting the case to the president, the committee making the investigation shall formulate the charges and specifications against the accused, and the president of the Synod shall furnish a copy to the accused not less than twenty days before the convention of the Synod, at the same time citing him to appear at the convention when his case shall be heard and decided. Not less than five days before the convention at which the accused shall be heard, the accused shall file with the committee of investigation his answer to the charges and specifications seriatim.

If the findings by majority vote of the committee show insufficient evidence of guilt the committee of investigation shall report the same to the president of the Synod. The president of the Synod shall thereupon notify the accused of the termination of the pro-

Synod. Disregard of any such disciplinary action by a minister or congregation shall in itself be deemed a violation of order which shall subject the offender to further discipline.

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When such investigation is instituted, a copy of the complaint against the accused shall be furnished him by the president, allowing him not less than ten days between the time of his citation and the time appointed for the hearing. In the interim the accused shall file with the committee of investigation an answer setting forth his defense. If the accused should refuse, or fail to appear without presenting adequate reasons why the investigation should be deferred to another time, it shall proceed in the same manner as if he were present.

If the findings in such an investigation indicate gross immorality, or flagrant transgression, or if the accused minister shall have absconded, or if the circumstances are such that, in the judgment of the president of the Synod, the Church would suffer irreparable harm if the accused minister would continue to exercise the office of the ministry while under investigation, the president of the Synod shall immediately suspend the accused from the office and functions of the ministry until his case has been finally decided by the Synod.

If the findings of the investigation show sufficient evidence of guilt besides reporting the case to the president, the committee making the investigation shall formulate the charges and specifications against the accused, and the president of the Synod shall furnish a copy to the accused not less than twenty days before the convention of the Synod, at the same time citing him to appear at the convention when his case shall be heard and decided. Not less than five days before the convention at which the accused shall be heard, the accused shall file with the committee of investigation his answer to the charges and specifications seriatim.

If the findings by majority vote of the committee show insufficient evidence of guilt the committee of investigation shall report the same to the president of the Synod. The president of the Synod shall thereupon notify the accused of the termination of the pro-

ceedings and shall then attempt in Christian love to reconcile all parties affected.

C. THE TRIAL

When the preliminary investigation has shown that formal trial is necessary, the president shall report the matter to the next annual convention of the Synod, or to a special convention called for the purpose, and the case shall be referred to a committee on discipline consisting of fifteen members.

The committee of investigation shall be responsible for the presentation of evidence. The committee of investigation shall appoint at least two of its members who shall be charged with the duty of conducting the prosecution during the trial. With the consent of the president of the Synod, the committee of investigation may employ counsel to represent it at the trial. Such counsel shall, however, be members of congregations belonging to the Synod.

The accused shall be notified of the time and place of the trial and shall have the right to be present. The accused shall have the further right to be heard in his own defense, and to call witnesses, and may be represented by counsel, who, however, shall be members of congregations belonging to the Synod or shall be approved by the executive committee of this Synod. The committee on discipline shall hear all relevant testimony and shall present its finding to the Synod. If the findings be adverse to the accused, it shall also recommend the penalty to be imposed. The findings of the committee may be adopted and the penalty determined by a majority vote of the Synod; but the accused may appeal from the findings of the committee, in which case he shall be tried in closed session by the Synod or the Ministerial Session and the method of procedure shall be the same as before the committee on discipline. In case of such appeal all penalties shall be suspended until the case has been tried and determined by the Synod.

When a minister is charged with teaching or preaching doctrines that are in conflict with ARTICLE ONE, Section II, of this constitution, the committee on discipline shall consist entirely of ministers, and shall report its findings to the ministerial session; but the accused may appeal to the said ministerial session against the findings of the committee, in which case the ministerial session shall proceed to try the charges. In acting upon the report of the committee on discipline or in its trial of charges, the ministerial session shall take a vote upon two counts: First, Is the doctrine specified in conflict with ARTICLE ONE, Section II? Second, Is the accused

guilty of preaching or teaching such doctrine? The guilt of the accused shall be determined only upon a two-thirds vote on the first count, and upon a majority vote on the second count. The ministerial session shall then report its decision to the Synod, which shall determine the penalty by a majority vote; but the penalty shall not be less than suspension from the ministry, which shall continue until such time as the accused shall have made full recantation of the errors because of which he has been suspended.

When final decision has been made in the trial of a minister, the president of the Synod shall at once announce the decision, whether guilty or not guilty. If guilty, the president shall pronounce the sentence in the presence of the body, also if possible, in the presence of the person adjudged guilty.

If the accused shall produce to the president of the Synod after-discovered evidence which in the judgment of the president would seem to warrant a retrial, the president shall present the evidence to the Synod, which shall decide whether or not the case shall be retried.

When the penalty imposed has been greater than that of public or private censure, he shall at once call a special convention of the Synod to consider the matter.

The evidence in a case of discipline shall not be published, in part or in whole. This shall not be taken to prevent the publication of the fact of the trial and the penalty imposed.

Section IV—Appeals from Congregational Discipline

The administration of discipline in a congregation is governed by the congregation's constitution, but a member of any congregation belonging to the Synod may appeal to the Synod from the disciplinary action of the congregation. All such appeals must be made in writing to the president of the Synod within thirty days after the action has been taken. A copy of the appeal shall be promptly transmitted by the appellant to the officers of the congregation, nor shall the appeal be entertained unless there is evidence that the same has been received by said officers. Upon receiving such appeal, the president of the Synod shall refer the matter for investigation and determination to a special committee appointed by him. All relevant testimony shall be heard in such investigation. The decision or findings of the committee shall be reported to the president of the Synod and shall be final unless the Synod, after petition by either party, shall determine otherwise.

ARTICLE THIRTEEN

INCORPORATION

The Synod shall be incorporated.

ARTICLE FOURTEEN

THE SEAL

1. The seal of the Synod shall appear as two concentric circles. Between the circles shall appear the legend, "The Evangelical Lutheran Synod in the Central States. U. L. C. A." Within the smaller circle shall appear the bold figure of the cross and smaller figures of the sower and the reaper.

2. The seal shall be in the charge of the president of the Synod, who shall affix it, or cause it to be affixed, to all documents, certificates, deeds, legal papers, or official copies of resolutions, etc., requiring the Seal of the Synod.

ARTICLE FIFTEEN

THIS CONSTITUTION

1. The provisions and ordinances contained in the constitution and by-laws of the Synod, in so far as the same are severally applicable, shall be of like force in the government of the Synod, the ministerial session, and the conference.

2. The constitution of this Synod may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at a regular annual convention, provided that such proposed amendments be moved and presented in writing by not fewer than six members at a previous regular annual convention.

3. Everything in any by-law, resolution, or enactment of the Synod in conflict with this constitution is hereby superseded and repealed.

BY-LAWS

Section I

FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year shall begin January 1 and continue through December 31.

Section II

CONVENTIONS

1. The regular convention of the Synod shall be held during the month of May on dates set by the Synod or the executive committee.
2. The executive committee shall prepare an order of business for each convention of the Synod and shall recommend its adoption at the opening session.
3. The president together with those delegated by him shall arrange for and administer the Holy Communion at each convention in accordance with the common usage at conventions of The United Lutheran Church in America.
4. The president shall appoint a chaplain for each convention.
5. A meeting of the lay delegates, the agenda for which shall be prepared by the lay members of the executive committee, shall be held in connection with each regular convention of the Synod.

Section III

NOTICE

1. Notice of the time and place of all conventions shall be given by the secretary by mail, or by publication in the synodical paper, to each minister and each congregation of the synod. Such notice shall be given at least sixty days in advance for all regular conventions, and at least fifteen days in advance for all special conventions.

2. Notice of a proposed amendment to the Articles of Incorporation of the Synod shall be given by the secretary, by mailing to each minister and each congregation of the synod a copy of such proposed amendment at least sixty days in advance of the meeting at which such proposed amendment is to be voted upon.

Section IV

RULES OF ORDER

The business shall be conducted in conformity with Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, except as specified otherwise in the constitution and these by-laws.

Section V

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. Terms of elected members of this committee shall be three years. They shall be elected in such manner that the terms of approximately one-third of the members (if possible an equal number of ministers and laymen) expire each year. No elected member shall serve for more than two consecutive full terms.
3. It shall normally meet quarterly. Special meetings may be called by the president and shall be called by him at the written request of one-third of the members of the committee.
3. It shall cause an examination to be made of the printed minutes of the last regular convention of the Synod and of any intervening conventions, make necessary corrections, and present three such corrected copies of the minutes, certified by the secretary and president to the next regular convention of the Synod to become the protocol of the convention or conventions to which the minutes pertain. One copy shall be placed in the synodical office, one in the secretary's office, and one shall be placed in the archives.
4. It shall make nominations for election to all Elective Committees and Boards.
5. It shall maintain a right relationship between the Synod and its official auxiliaries.

6. Upon nomination by the president of the Synod it shall elect an assistant to the president, a statistician, and an archivist.
7. It shall arrange for the installation of officers.

Section VI

COMMITTEE ON HOME MISSIONS

1. This committee shall exercise oversight of and shall promote home missions.
2. It shall distribute funds appropriated by the Synod for home missions and shall recommend the amount of aid to be given by the Board of American Missions of The United Lutheran Church in America.
3. Pastors of congregations receiving home missions aid shall submit monthly or quarterly reports as required by this committee.

Section VII

STANDING COMMITTEES

Following each regular convention of Synod, with the approval of the executive committee, the president shall appoint committees as follows:

1. *Committee on youth work*
This committee shall consist of nine members. It shall counsel the Luther League as an auxiliary of the church, seek to foster co-operation with the program of the Luther League of America, and seek to increase the activity of youth in the Synod and its congregations. It shall supervise the program of all youth camps within the Synod. It shall nominate to the executive committee a director or directors of such youth camps each year. Such directors, after election by the executive committee, shall be advisory members of the committee on youth work. The chairman of the committee on camp property shall be an ex-officio member of this committee.
2. *Committee on congregational interests*
This committee shall consist of five members. It shall be the duty of this committee to study the constitutions and corporate charters of congregations applying for membership in this Synod, as well as to study contemplated changes in the constitutions of member congregations.

3. *Committee on student work in non-Lutheran schools*
This committee shall consist of not more than five members.

It shall endeavor to effect or assist in effecting a ministry to Lutheran students in non-Lutheran schools. Its activity shall be in co-operation with the Division of Student Service of the National Lutheran Council.
4. *Committee on publications*
This committee shall consist of three members.
It shall be the duty of this committee to review and study periodicals and books and to make such recommendations as may be of value to the members of Synod or the Board of Publication of The United Lutheran Church in America.
5. *Committee on circulation of "The Lutheran"*
This committee shall consist of not more than five members. It shall cooperate with the staff of "The Lutheran" in efforts to place "The Lutheran" in every home in the Synod and shall assist congregations toward this end.
6. *Committee on pensions*
This committee shall consist of not more than five members. It shall promote the pension plans of The United Lutheran Church in America among pastors and congregations of the Synod, and assist the president in the relief and care of ministers or their dependents in cases of emergency or special need.
7. *Committee on camp property*
There shall be a committee on camp property consisting of a chairman and not fewer than six other members. Membership on this committee shall be for a term of one year beginning October 1. The chairman of the committee on youth work shall be a member of this committee, ex-officio. Under the direction and control of the executive committee, this committee shall be responsible for maintaining the property of any camp or camps owned by Synod; shall be responsible for all financial transactions involved in connection with the ownership and management of such camps; and shall strive to manage the facilities of such camps on a self supporting basis.
8. No member except the president shall serve on more than one standing committee.

Section VIII

DIRECTORS AND TRUSTEES

Synod shall choose representatives to the following boards: Central Lutheran Theological Seminary, Midland College, Tabitha Home, Nebraska Lutheran Social Service. The number of representatives and the length of terms shall be in accordance with the constitutional requirement of the respective boards and agencies.

No such representatives shall serve for more than two consecutive full terms.

The representatives to such institutions and agencies shall report annually to Synod and shall make available for inspection by the Synod a copy of the annual audit of the institution or agency.

Section IX

CONVENTION COMMITTEES

At the first session of each annual convention of the Synod, the president shall appoint the following committees:

1. *Committee on reference and counsel*

The duties of this committee shall include considering all general resolutions before they are submitted to the convention, arranging special orders for the hearing of representatives; and giving such assistance as may be desired by the president for the conduct of the general program of the convention.

2. *Committee on president's report*

The duties of this committee shall include studying and reviewing the annual report of the president; transmitting to the Synod his recommendations requiring action by the Synod; and making such additional recommendations as it deems proper.

3. *Committee on elections*

This committee shall have charge of all elections.

4. *Committee on registration and attendance*

The duties of this committee shall include the registering of all clerical and accredited lay delegates attending the convention; distributing registration cards prepared by the secretary; receiving excuses of those absent from the convention; recording those absent without excuse, and making a full report to the Synod as to convention attendance.

5. *Committee on convention travel*

This committee shall examine and approve the statements of convention travel expenses as submitted by the delegates. Travel expense of delegates, clerical and lay, shall be paid by the Synod at a rate determined by the executive committee.

6. *Committee on resolutions*

Section X

REPORTS

1. All officers, committees, directors, and trustees shall present their reports, typewritten, double-spaced, in duplicate, to the secretary by a date designated by him for inclusion in the convention bulletin.
2. Each report shall be signed by a majority of those submitting it. Minority statements shall be signed by the entire minority dissenting.
3. The secretary of the Synod shall mail one copy of the convention bulletin to each minister together with one additional copy for the use of the lay delegate of each congregation, at least one week prior to the regular convention of Synod.
4. Financial reports shall be audited by an accredited accountant before presentation to Synod. All financial statements submitted to the Synod shall be in such form as to show clearly and separately both current operating accounts and capital accounts. There shall be presented in each case a balance sheet showing assets and liabilities in reasonable detail.

Section XI

ELECTIONS

1. The election of all officers shall be by ballot. In cases in which ministers only are eligible there shall be no prior nominations.
2. Election of officers shall be the first item of business after the roll of Synod is determined and the reports of officers have been presented.
3. In the election of officers the following rules shall obtain:
On the first ballot, three-fourth of all votes cast shall be necessary to elect.

On the second ballot, two-thirds of all the votes cast shall be necessary to elect.

The fourth ballot shall be confined to the two persons receiving the highest number of votes on the third ballot, and no vote cast for any other shall be counted.

Section XII

DELEGATES TO THE CONVENTIONS OF THE UNITED LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

1. The president of the Synod shall be one of the delegates to conventions of The United Lutheran Church in America, ex-officio.
2. If an officer of The United Lutheran Church in America is a member of this Synod or is a member of a congregation belonging to this Synod, he shall be a delegate ex-officio.
3. All other delegates and alternates shall be elected by ballot. Oral nominations may be made for lay delegates and alternate lay delegates.
4. The president of the Synod shall be chairman of the delegation. When the president of Synod cannot serve as chairman, the delegation shall choose its own chairman.
5. A per diem allowance shall be granted to each delegate in attendance at a rate fixed by Synod or the executive committee.

Section XIII

CONFERENCES

1. The Synod shall be divided into five conferences.

The Northeast Conference shall be bounded on the north and on the east by the boundaries of Synod. On the south it shall be bounded by the south boundaries of the following counties of Nebraska: Washington, Dodge, Colfax, Platte, Nance, Howard, and Sherman. On the west it shall be bounded by the west boundaries of the following counties of Nebraska: Sherman, Valley, Garfield, Holt, and Boyd.

The Northwest Conference shall be bounded on the north and on the west by the boundaries of Synod. On the east it shall be bounded by the west boundary of the Northeast Conference. On the south it shall be bounded by the south boundaries of the following counties of Nebraska: Custer, Lincoln, Perkins, Deuel, Cheyenne, and Kimball.

The Southwest Conference shall be bounded on the west by the boundaries of Synod. On the north it shall be bounded by the south boundary of the Northwest Conference, and the south boundaries of the following counties of Nebraska: Sherman, Howard, Hamilton, York, Seward, and Lancaster. On the east it shall be bounded by the east boundary of the following counties in Nebraska: Hall, Saline, and Gage; and by the east boundary of the following counties in Kansas: Marshall, Pottawatomie, Geary, Morris, Chase, Butler and Cowley. On the south it shall be bounded by the south boundary of the State of Kansas.

The Central Conference shall be bounded on the east by the boundary of Synod. On the north it shall be bounded by the north boundary of the following counties of Nebraska: Douglas, Saunders, Butler, Polk, and Merrick. On the south it shall be bounded by the south boundary of the following counties of Nebraska: Hamilton, York, Seward, Lancaster; and by the fortieth parallel of latitude north of the equator. On the west it shall be bounded by the west boundaries of the following counties of Nebraska: Merrick, Hamilton, Lancaster, Johnson, and Pawnee.

The Southeast Conference shall be bounded on the north by the fortieth parallel of latitude north of the equator. On the east, and south, it shall be bounded by the boundaries of Synod. On the west it shall be bounded by the west boundary of the following

counties of Kansas: Nemaha, Jackson, Wabaunsee, Lyon, Greenwood, Elk, and Chautauqua; and by the boundary of Synod.

2. Each Conference shall nominate two persons from its membership for each vacancy to be filled in the Executive Committee of the Synod.

Section XIV

SYNODICAL PAPER

The executive committee shall be responsible for publishing a synodical paper, and it shall appoint an editor and such other members of a staff as may be needed. Appointments to the staff shall be upon nomination by the editor.

Section XV

AMENDMENTS OF BY-LAWS

These by-laws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present and voting at a convention of the Synod, provided that such amendment has been moved and presented in writing by not fewer than six members at a session of Synod at least one day prior to the day at which action is taken.

This is to certify that the foregoing Constitution and By-Laws were adopted by the Organizing Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod in the Central States, held June 8, 9, 1954 at St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kansas City, Missouri.

HOWARD PETERSON, Secretary

ALFRED W. YOUNG, Secretary Pro Tem.

**ARTICLES OF CORPORATION
Of
The Evangelical Lutheran Synod
In The Central States
Of
Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska**

ARTICLE I.

The name of the corporation shall be "The Evangelical Lutheran Synod in the Central States", and its principal office shall be in the City of Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska.

ARTICLE II.

The resident agent of the corporation shall be the President, and his address is Omaha, Nebraska.

ARTICLE III.

The purpose and object of the corporation shall be:

(1) The supervision and discipline of its constituent congregations and members in conformity with its Constitution.

(2) To receive, own, possess, hold, sell, mortgage and convey property, both real and personal, for religious, charitable, and educational purposes, and to receive property of all kinds by devise, bequest, gifts, or otherwise, and for such further purposes or objects as set forth in its Constitution.

(3) To transact all secular business and manage all temporal affairs of the corporation.

(4) To make and adopt a Constitution and By-Laws not inconsistent with its Article of Incorporation, or the laws of the United States, or this State, or any other state in which it does business.

(5) To have a corporate seal.

(6) To transact any other business whatsoever incident to the advancement of the purposes of the corporation and provided in its Consitution.

ARTICLE IV.

The membership of the corporation, the voting membership thereof and the succession of membership and voting membership shall be as provided in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Synod.

ARTICLE V.

All vacancies shall be filled by the Executive Committee unless otherwise provided in its Constitution.

ARTICLE VI.

The corporation shall begin on the 2nd day of June, 1954, and shall be perpetual.

ARTICLE VII.

The affairs of the corporation shall be conducted by the Officers and the Executive Committee, who shall be elected as provided in its Constitution.

ARTICLE VIII.

The Corporation shall have authority to execute a deed of conveyance or encumbrance when authorized by resolution adopted by the Executive Committee of the Synod.

All deeds, mortgages, instruments of indebtedness, leases or contracts affecting the real estate owned by the corporation shall be executed by the President, attested by the Secretary, and have affixed thereto the seal of the Corporation.

ARTICLE IX.

These Articles of Incorporation may be amended by two-thirds vote at any regular or special convention of the Synod, notice of the

proposed amendments shall be given sixty (60) days before such meeting as provided in the By-Laws of the Synod.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto subscribed our names this _____ day of June, 1954, at Omaha, Douglas County, Nebraska.

This is to certify that the above Articles of Incorporation were adopted by the Organizing Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod in the Central States held June 8, 9, 1954 at St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kansas City, Missouri; and that said Articles of Incorporation were filed on July 20, 1954 with the Secretary of State of the State of Nebraska, in Book 204 at page 343, Miscellaneous Incorporations. Said Articles were filed also on July 27, 1954 in the County Clerk's Office, Douglas County, Nebraska.

HOWARD PETERSON, Secretary

ALFRED W. YOUNG, Secretary Pro Tem.
